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THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

THE NURSING RECORD

No. 1,518. Vol. 58. [Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper.] MAY 5TH. 1917 WEEKLY TWOPENCE.

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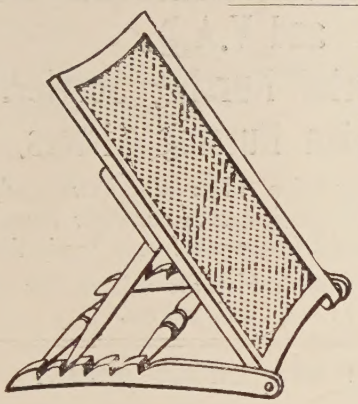

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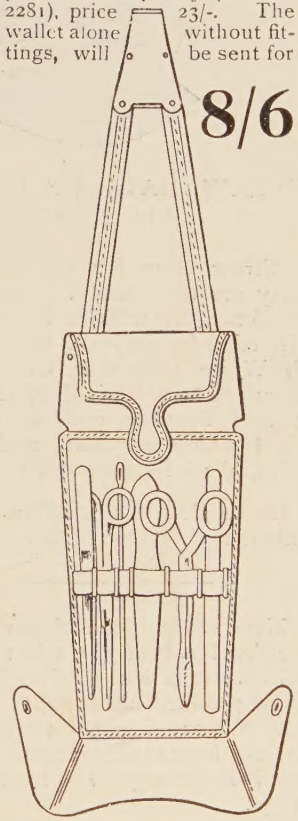

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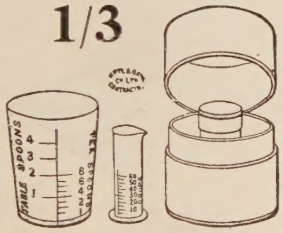

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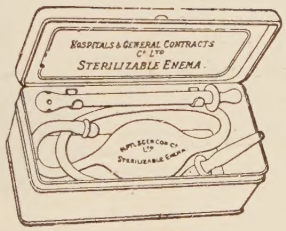

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Salary £80 per annum, rising by annual increments of £5 to £100, with Apartments, Board and Laundry.

Applicants must not be more than 40 years of age, must be fully trained nurses and competent managers.

Applications, stating age, experience, copies of three recent testimonials (including one from last post held), together with certificate of health, to be sent to the HON. SECRETARY, not later than Saturday, May 12th, 1917.

Canvassing will disqualify. 77

COUNTY COUNCIL OF DURHAM.
SEALBURN TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL.

The County Health Committee will shortly appoint a fully-trained Nurse and experienced Housekeeper to act as MATRON of the above-mentioned Hospital, which is situate about three miles from Ryton-on-Tyne railway station, and contains beds for sixteen patients.

The person appointed will be required to act under the instructions of the County Medical Officer and of the Visiting Medical Officer.

The salary will be £50 per annum, with an additional allowance of £8 for uniform; and the appointment will be subject to three months' notice on either side.

Applications, with copies of not more than three recent testimonials, must be received on or before the 13th May by the undersigned.

Canvassing is prohibited.

Shire Hall, Durham. T. EUSTACE HILL, County Medical Officer.
25th April, 1917. 67

ROYAL LONDON OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL.

SISTER WANTED for Men's floor of 58 beds (30 for soldiers). Salary £40. Apply personally or by letter to MATRON, Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, City Road, E.C. 1. 71

MANCHESTER CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

SISTER REQUIRED for Medical Ward. Fully trained. Salary, £32 to commence, and 10s. per month war bonus. Apply, with full particulars, to the MATRON, at the Hospital, Pendlebury. 49

HOSPITAL AND POOR LAW VACANCIES ETC.—*continued.*

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WANTED, a SISTER for holiday duty.
Salary at the rate of £40.
Also PROBATIONERS.
Salary, £16, £18, £20.
Apply to MATRON, with testimonials. 89

MANOR COURT MILITARY HOSPITAL, MANOR ROAD, FOLKESTONE.

WANTED, SURGICAL SISTER. 50 beds and Theatre.
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Nurse from large Provincial Hospital who has done private nursing preferred.
Apply MISS HARROLD, Matron. 68

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NIGHT SISTER REQUIRED. Candidates must hold a three years' certificate from a recognised training school and have had experience as a Ward Sister. Salary £50, rising by annual increments to a maximum of £55. Uniform provided. Applications, stating age, experience, &c., with copies of three recent testimonials and a Matron's name for reference, should be sent to the MATRON, Perth War Hospital, Glasgow Road, Perth. 76

BOLTON UNION.

CHARGE NURSE and PROBATIONER NURSES WANTED for the Fishpool Institution, Farnworth, near Bolton.

Forms of application and full particulars (for which a stamped addressed foolscap envelope must be enclosed) may be obtained from the SUPERINTENDENT NURSE, Fishpool Institution, Farnworth, near Bolton. 70

LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS

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20, UPPER WIMPOLE ST., LONDON, W. 1.

Phone—513 Mayfair.

HOSPITAL AND POOR LAW VACANCIES ETC.—*continued.*

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EDMONTON UNION.

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WANTED, NURSE for Day or Night Duty as required. Must have certificate of General training and Fever experience. Age not over 35.

Salary £35.

Applications, with full particulars and not more than three testimonials, to be sent to me before 12th MAY.

C. CRICHTON S. BENNING, Clerk.

Town Clerk's Office, Dunstable.
24th April, 1917. 82

LEIGH UNION.

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HOSPITAL AND POOR LAW VACANCIES ETC.—*continued.*

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By Order,
JOHN J. ROPER,
Clerk.

74, East Street,
Bridport.
27th April, 1917. 66

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Also PROBATIONER NURSE. Salary £14 to £20, with Uniform. Period of training two years. Lectures given.

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A. E. BRINDLEY,
Medical Officer of Health.

Ford Street,
Derby. 73

APPOINTMENTS VACANT.

SISTER WANTED (duration of War). Salary £40. Apply, with references and photo, to MATRON, County Infirmary, Newtown. 85

SISTER REQUIRED, male Surgical. Good disciplinarian. Commencing salary £40. Uniform. Apply MATRON, Beckett Hospital, Barnsley, Yorks. 86

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PROBATIONERS REQUIRED for General Hospital (50 beds). Military and civilian. Salary £16 and £20, with Uniform. Apply MATRON, Eccles and Patricroft Hospital, Manchester. 92

WANTED, PROBATIONERS for three years' Fever and Consumptive training. Must be well educated. Salary, £20, £25, £30. Forms of application may be obtained from MATRON, Infectious Diseases Hospital, New Road, Blackpool. 93

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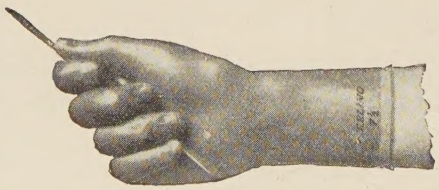

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THE NURSING RECORD
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

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EDITORIAL.

NURSES' AIDS.

"The standard of nursing for the sick and wounded should be of the highest quality that a grateful nation can provide for men who are risking their lives in the defence of the Empire." Thus the National Council of Trained Nurses affirmed by resolution at the beginning of the war, and every nurse worth her salt is in sympathy with it.

Whenever war throws a glamour over the sick and wounded, a number of persons who in time of peace have shown no disposition to care for the sick are seized with the conviction that they are heaven born nurses, and that their services are indispensable to the sick and wounded. It is true that a certain number come forward inspired by patriotic motives, willing to make themselves useful wherever they are required, and their services are utilized with advantage, and gratitude. These are not the people who clamour for place, and power, and impute unworthy motives to trained nurses, who, as members of a skilled profession, know that only by maintaining the highest standard of efficiency can the quality of nursing to which the sick and wounded are entitled, be provided.

The nursing profession in America with its usual perspicuity, and professional conscience, has defined the position of temporary war workers as that of nurses' aids. Had members of the Voluntary Aid Detachments been placed in the same position in this country at the beginning of the war there would have been no suggestion now of their promotion, without systematic training, to positions of Staff Nurse and Sister.

Yet it is seriously proposed by correspondents in the *Times*, with editorial support from that paper, that V.A.D.s, and Special Military Probationers should be promoted to these responsible positions, and the hindrance to such promotion is ascribed to the "rigid trade-unionism of the three years' general-training nurses and matrons," an unworthy slander on a most patriotic class of women. One correspondent who is closely associated with the College of Ambulance, where short term instruction in First Aid and Nursing is, we believe, given for a consideration, states that her own Voluntary Aid Detachment is 500 strong, that a great number of the members have become excellently trained, and act as Staff Nurses, that the prospect at present of years of devotion to hospital work leads to nothing but a "blind alley" of occupation, and concludes "Surely the doctors and matrons could meet and devise a scheme whereby the experiences these women have gained may be retained and employed in the future." What type of certificated nurse would be found willing to be placed under the direction of a V.A.D. Sister? Not the nurse whose desire for the welfare of the sick and wounded is paramount. She knows that the lives of men who have fought and bled for the Empire are in the balance, and will not barter them for any consideration of personal expediency, or in the hope of any patronage to be secured through social influence. The true nurse places the welfare of the patient first, and works for it, and, if need be, fights for it uninfluenced by personal considerations.

Unfortunately, at the beginning of the war, the Army Medical Department adopted an unprofessional line of action in its relation to trained nursing by recognizing as Commandants, and placing in positions of authority in hospitals, absolutely untrained women. To attempt to estimate the evil result of this form of organization would be impossible.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

NAME SOME DISEASES THAT MAY BE CAUSED BY THE FOLLOWING ERRORS IN DIET—(*a*) INSUFFICIENT FOOD. (*b*) LACK OF FRESH FOOD. (*c*) OVEREATING. (*d*) IMPROPERLY BALANCED DIET.

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this week to Miss Dora Vine, Eversley, Exmouth.

PRIZE PAPER.

It is not sufficiently understood—even by nurses—that dietetics is a study of universal importance. At the present time, when compulsory rations loom before us in the near future, we should do well to consider the question of food in relation to health and efficiency.

(*a*) Insufficient food is the predisposing cause of many diseases, and it is just as unpatriotic to eat too little as it is to eat too much, the health of the community being dependent upon the efficiency of the individual. Anæmia and those conditions in which the vitality is impaired through insufficient food all predispose to the attacks of the specific germs of the various infectious fevers, besides inviting the ubiquitous bacillus *micrococcus catarrhalis* and his kin.

Marasmus, "general debility," neurasthenia, are all consequences of insufficient nourishment.

(*b*) *Lack of fresh food* is not as often a cause of disease nowadays as it was when sailing ships made their long voyages and often reached their destination with a crew suffering from scurvy and skin affections, due to the lack of green and fresh food. In our times many people take an insufficient amount of vegetable food, and in consequence suffer from constipation and its kindred troubles. They are saved from scurvy by the fresh food they eat in the form of cereals, milk, eggs, &c., without being at all conscious of their indebtedness.

(*c*) *Overeating* results in biliousness, and excess of bile leads to gastric and intestinal trouble. This may take the form of stasis, obstruction, or colitis, while the additional fat impedes freedom of the muscles and predisposes to attacks of germs.

(*d*) *Improperly balanced diet* is the special pitfall for sedentary people, and the food question should therefore be thoughtfully considered by all women workers in particular. It is so easy for tea and toast to take the place of the necessary nitrogenous food, the gastric juices unable to perform their functions go on strike, excess of bile and hydrochloric acid, together with the usual accompaniments of insufficient exercise, air, and tight garments all irritate and weaken the gastric walls, and gastritis, gastric ulcer, and their sequelæ follow.

Rheumatic patients require food free from purin, and must also avoid sugar and much farinaceous food. Aneurism cases are often ordered Tufnell's diet, in which the amount of liquid and solid food is exactly calculated.

Diabetic patients are nowadays dieted more according to their individual cases than formerly, when gluten bread, and no sugar appeared to be the chief instructions as to diet.

In all cases of private work, the nurse should obtain explicit directions with regard to diet, and should make a practice of reporting with regard to the amount taken, the appetite, and any idiosyncrasy of the individual patient, for not only will the omission of a "diet report" affect the patient, but it must be considered unpatriotic to encourage waste in any way, and a patient who is given unsuitable, insufficient, or unpalatable food is being sinned against by the nurse in charge, besides being a weak link in the nation's chain by not being raised to his highest level of health and efficiency.

We regret to state that instead of our usual full letter bag of prize competition papers, Miss Dora Vine's was the only one received this week, which appears to prove that nurses as a class do not sufficiently study the all-important question of food in relation to health and disease.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

Differentiate between (*a*) communicable, (*b*) contagious, and (*c*) infectious diseases, and give an example of each.

A HAPPY COMBINATION.

The services rendered by trained nurses to the medical profession in their investigation of the causes of disease are well-known, but we have never seen the recognition given to them in a medical paper, which is accorded in the *British Medical Journal* of April 14th, to an Australian Army Sister. Notes on the Etiology of Dysentery including "Types of Dysentery Bacilli," isolated at No. 3, Australian General Hospital, Cairo, March-August, 1916, with observations on the variability of the Mannite Fermenting Group, and the Value of Agglutination in the identification of Members of the Mannite Fermenting Group of Dysentery Bacilli, are stated to be by Lieut.-Col. C. J. Martin, F.R.S., Australian Army Medical Corps, and Sister F. E. Williams, Australian Army Nursing Service. It is a very happy combination and one which might be acknowledged more frequently.

After going through various processes colonies were sown in warm broth and further investigated.

NURSING AND THE WAR.

On Wednesday, April 26th, the King held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace, when His Majesty conferred the Decoration of the Royal Red Cross upon the following ladies :—

THE ROYAL RED CROSS.

FIRST CLASS.

CIVIL NURSING SERVICE—*Principal Matron :* Miss Lilian Cushon ; *Matrons :* The Misses Isabel Bennett, Mildred Heather-Bigg, Alice Bird, Laura Bradburne, Mabel Cave, Elizabeth Dodds, Annie Dowbiggin, Edith Eddison, Marion Foggett, Mary Hamer, Elizabeth Hezlett, Pamela Hill, Rachel Jones, Mary McGivney, Anna Phillips, also Miss Audrey Buller.

VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENT—Miss Rachel Crowdy.

SECOND CLASS.

CIVIL NURSING SERVICE—*Matrons :* The Misses Janet Amour, Jeannie Jordan, Margretta Thornton ; *Lady Superintendent :* Miss Alice Kelly ; *Assistant Matron :* Miss Elizabeth Bullivant ; *Sisters :* The Misses Alice Alexander, Mildred Allbeury, Emma Barnes, Alfreda Blakesley, Emma Bramwell, Gertrude Bygrave, Grace Carswell, Lilian Cook, Elsie Harse, Kathleen Kennedy, Margaret Lytle, Evelyn McMunn, Monica Somers, Alice Taylor ; *Staff Nurses :* The Misses Catharine Carmichael, Christina Carvel, and Elizabeth Charles.

VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENT—Mrs. Dent.

The Secretary of State for War, the Earl of Derby, has circulated a letter in which he states that fully trained nurses are a most urgent need to complete hospital establishments, in order to meet the situation caused by the torpedoing of hospital ships. He appeals to Hospital, Poor Law and Institution authorities to set at liberty nurses for military service, to retired nurses to offer their services to their training-schools to enable nurses capable of undertaking the more strenuous duties of military service to be released, to those who have retired from military service to again enrol, and those free to offer their services to apply to the Matron-in-Chief.

In conclusion, Lord Derby writes :—

I cannot end this appeal without making reference to the splendid work of nurses for the sick and wounded, and to the courage and devotion to duty displayed under fire, in the field, and in mined and torpedoed hospital ships in this war. The Nursing Service has a glorious record, and I feel confident that many will now answer to the call to join a Service which has done so much for the country, and to which the country owes such a debt of gratitude.

We are glad to note the last paragraph of this appeal. It may, in part, placate the indignation of women and of professional nurses, at the omission of all reference to their "glorious record," at the Women's Meeting at the Albert Hall, when the Secretary of State for War eulogised with unstinting praise the services of amateur nurses.

But we must once more emphasise the fact that if Lord Derby wants a whole-hearted response to his appeal, he must insist upon the elimination of the "Serf" Clause in the Agreement which trained nurses have to sign with the War Office, when joining the Reserve of the Military Nursing Service, and the Territorial Force Nursing Service.

THE "SERF" CLAUSE.

6. **If I in any manner misconduct myself or shall be (otherwise than through unavoidable illness or accident) unfit in any respect for service under this agreement, of which misconduct or unfitness you (Lord Derby) or your authorised representative (Sir Alfred Keogh) shall be the sole judge, you shall be at liberty from and immediately after such misconduct or unfitness, to discharge me from further service hereunder, and thereupon all pay and allowances hereunder shall cease.**

If the Nursing Service has won for itself the "glorious record" stated by Lord Derby, by what right are its members compelled to sign an Agreement of this insulting, tyrannical and unjust character ?

We do not know for certain who drafted it, but every member and official of the Army Council, the Nursing Board, Q.A.I.M.N.S., and the Advisory Council, T.F.N.S., have condoned it, and are to blame for its enforcement.

Private Nurses working on the co-operative system should be paid their usual fee, the business they have built up will not then be ruined, and these hard working women left unprovided for at the end of the war. After all their fee of £2 2s. a week would not amount to that paid to the members of the Canadian, Australian, and South African Military Nursing Services—and when every youthful medical practitioner gets twice as much and more—the country would not grudge better pay to its experienced and highly qualified nurses.

An urgent appeal is being made for healthy, well educated women between seventeen and fifty to act as "V.A.D.s" at home and abroad. Many more are required than now apply. Now that the war has been raging for nearly three years many women can no longer afford to volunteer for service. War probationers are well paid for unskilled service, but the work is much more strenuous than was expected. Also much of the glamour of war nursing has worn off. Those still desirous of serving their country in Voluntary Aid Detachments should apply to the Director, Women's Section, National Service Department, St. Ermin's Hotel, S.W.

A contingent of the nursing staff of the Harvard Unit (U.S.A.) in charge of the Matron Mrs. Hagar

were received by Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll) at Kensington Palace last week before proceeding to France. The Unit has been placed at the disposal of the British War Office.

It is reported from France that Miss Beadsmore Smith has been recalled from Malta to act as Matron-in-Chief there, in Q.A.I.M.N. Service, in place of Miss Macarthy, who has been temporarily incapacitated by illness.

In a leading article on "The Medical Services in the Somme Advance," the *British Medical Journal* says :—

"Throughout the winter the casualties were relatively light. There were a good many cases of sickness, but not for the most part of a serious kind—colds, coughs, sore throats, *et id genus omne*. It has, in short, been a fairly healthy winter on the whole, and the domestic rather than military character of the cases in hospital has been heightened by sundry outbreaks of measles—especially at the bases. Of these domestic troubles, the nursing staffs have had their share to the full. This is only what might be expected. Many of the nurses have been in France for a long time, and a nurse's life in a military hospital in France is, on the whole, a good deal more trying than that of an average member of the staff of a civil general or other hospital. She bears the strain to the full when things get busy, but cannot share entirely the benefit of slack times. The routine of a ward must be maintained, even though it contain no more than half-a-dozen patients, and these men who are not very seriously ill. There can never be any release from the perpetual cleaning; in fact, if ever a hospital be so short of patients as to allow of a ward being cleared, it is the signal for the immediate "spring cleaning," so to speak, of the ward and for its general renovation; in this, of course, the sisters and nurses play the leading part.

"If the British army has to spend another winter under conditions anything like those experienced last winter, there will be plenty of justification for any philanthropic folk who are willing to open a convalescent home on the Riviera for nurses. One has been at work all the winter at Mentone, and has proved of immense value to those who were able to visit it. But these were a very small proportion of the nurses who might have gone there with advantage, for there was room for only a little over a dozen convalescents."

Prince Delgorcoukoff, the General in command of the Roumanian front, lately visited the Dr. Elsie Inglis Hospital at Reni to confer the Medal of St. George for bravery on two of the wounded soldiers. Afterwards he asked to see all the staff at the hospital, and when they had assembled he gave the Medal of St. George to each, with the exception of Dr. Laird, who received the Service Medal. She joined the unit after the retreat in the Dobrudja, and has not yet had the experience of working under fire.

THE BROOK WAR HOSPITAL.

On Saturday, April 28th, by invitation of the Committee, many friends interested in the "Patients' occupation" visited the Brook War Hospital, Shooters' Hill, where an exhibition and sale of Patients' Handiwork was held, partly to help towards equipping the mortuary and partly to obtain funds for fresh materials for work. The matron, Miss E. M. Bann, received the guests, and sisters, nurses and war probationers combined to make the visitors at home, to show them the chief things of interest, both in the exhibition and hospital, and to serve tea most excellently made—hot, refreshing and delicious.

The pewter modelling exhibits were greatly admired, some bright, others oxydised, but all very charming. The first prize was won by Private Evans, M. 1 Ward, for a round box, with a ruby-coloured centre inset in the pewter, which was modelled with a rose of conventional design. Other prize winners of high merit in this class were Corporal H. Wood, M. 1, and Sergt. Cowburn, M. 1.

In the Pen Painting Section, Private Smith won the first prize for a blue toilet table set, decorated in pink and mauve. An oblong carved jardinière in dark oak, lined with tin, painted dark green, made by Private H. G. Ison, C. 2, was highly commended, as was also the chair back embroidered by Private Ranno, D. 1, with a topical inscription under the plum and apple trees.

Among the baskets, the first prize was won by Mr. John Watson, J. 1, whose exhibit was a charming round basket, with lid, closely woven, with a deep red note introduced here and there.

In the stitchery section the first prize was won by Lance-Corporal Cutland, A. 1, for a square table centre, blue, embroidered in white.

A wool door mat, of which the prevailing note was cherry colour, by Private Hough, H. 1 Ward, deserved the high commendation it received.

The Mortuary.

The mortuary has had much care and thought expended on its arrangement. As one approaches it one sees scarlet geraniums and other flowering plants in the window boxes. Inside is a simple bed—indeed the chamber might almost be a well-cared-for bedroom. But at one end is an altar draped in blue linen, with a cross and the sacred monogram embroidered in white, and above are the words, "Eternal rest grant them." On the walls hang reproductions of sacred pictures by the old masters, and near the ceiling above them, in gold lettering on a blue ground, are the words, "The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God," and "In Christ shall all be made alive." It is a place to bring consolation to the bereaved.

JOINT WAR COMMITTEE.

The following Sisters have been deputed to duty abroad :—*Boulogne Headquarters*.—Miss Hendrith, Miss M. E. Dormer, Miss H. M. Staunton, Miss E. M. Staunton. *La Panne*.—Miss M. Bell-Milner, Miss M. L. Greaves. *Brigade Hospital, Etaples*.—Miss Banks.

FISHMONGERS' HALL HOSPITAL.

The Fishmongers' Hall, which stands at the City end of London Bridge, was two years ago fitted and equipped as a Hospital for officers by the Messrs. Hirsch, and an account appeared in this Journal at the time—both of the opening and descriptive of the hospital. Since then nearly 800 patients have passed through its doors, and 250 operations have been performed in its little theatre.

The fine Banqueting Hall has been divided into single cubicles, and despite its ornate walls and ceiling excellent results have been achieved. On the second floor, the cubicles contain some two, some three beds. They are comfortably furnished and have a bright and restful appearance, and, above all, they are evidently the *sanctum sanctorum* of their occupants. The outlook from these windows is a real joy, and we feel sure plays no small part in hastening convalescence.

The windows directly overlook the river and, indeed, almost overhang it. We can well imagine the soothing effect of the gliding river upon over-strained nerves, and the fascination of idly watching the vessels drifting along its bosom.

On the balcony below there is a hut erected for septic cases and those requiring open-air treatment; these patients literally lie over the river, and thoroughly appreciate the treatment.

Miss Lightfoot, the Matron, who was trained at King's College Hospital, has been fortunate enough to secure most of the Sisters from her old training school. The majority of the nurses hail from St. John's House, and V.A.D.s supply the probationer staff.

The domestic Service is also worked by V.A.D.s, and the detachment told off for this purpose are by the Matron's permission, entirely under the supervision of their own senior officer, who is responsible for their work and off duty times.

Certainly the Service Room looked very efficient at the time of our visit when the inviting-looking trays were being prepared for tea. Each patient is allowed two guests for this meal—should he so desire. The Matron runs the hospital on nursing home lines, as she considers that in a small hospital meals taken in the patients' rooms are preferable to a common dining room.

While everything bears the stamp of efficiency and comfort, there is no lavish outlay, and everything adaptable has been adapted before incurring unnecessary expense.

One proof of good generalship is harmonious working, and the Matron gives generous praise to the workers in all departments for their willing service and loyalty.

While Lady Dimsdale is the popular and highly competent Civil Administrator, the Nursing arrangements are in the sole charge of the Matron.

H. H.

MISS LIGHTFOOT, LADY DIMSDALE AND NURSING STAFF, THE FISHMONGERS' HALL HOSPITAL FOR OFFICERS.

The Russian Exhibition was opened at the Grafton Galleries on Monday by Lord French. Lady Muriel Paget, the organiser, briefly explained that the exhibition was in aid of the Anglo-Russian Hospital at Petrograd, which was an outward and visible sign of the great admiration of the whole of our Empire for gallant and chivalrous Russian soldiers. Nurses with a shilling to spare will expend it patriotically by visiting the exhibition; they will learn much of the real Russia and the wonderful possibilities of its people.

RECUPERATIVE HOSTELS.

FOR SAILORS AND SOLDIERS, ALSO MEN OF THE MERCANTILE MARINE, INVALIDED THROUGH NERVE STRAIN.

By the kindness of Lady Gort, a meeting was held at her house, 15, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W., on April 28th, on behalf of the above scheme The Right Hon. Sir Frederick Milner, Bart., Chairman of the General Committee, presided. The room was packed to its greatest capacity with an appreciative audience. Letters of regret for non-attendance were read from various persons. In his opening remarks, the speaker said that in spite of cold water that some had thrown upon the enterprise, the Committee was a determined body and meant to carry on the work ; he paid a special tribute to the work of Mrs. Clarke, and he expressed his pleasure that she had undertaken the management of the first hostel at Hampstead, to which she would bring, he said, great experience and great intelligence. Sir Frederick told the audience that he had travelled all over the United Kingdom since the war broke out, visiting hospitals, and had spoken personally with 85,000 wounded men ; the most pitiable of all were the nerve-stricken men, the sight of whom had filled him with a passionate desire to do something for them. No possible excuse, he declared, could be made for sending these heroic men who had done so much for their country, to pauper lunatic asylums, where many are still being sent ; although eminent medical men have said, that under proper care and treatment they are curable. The first hostel at Hampstead will be ready for the occupation of patients in about three weeks' time ; many applications have already been received. Mrs. Parker, sister to the late Lord Kitchener, who is working in connection with the K. of K. Association, made an earnest appeal for sympathy and practical help. "Let us take up this matter," she said, "and show the Government what can be done." Dr. Susan White emphasized the fact that whereas no civilian could be sent to an asylum without being properly certified, this was not so with the men of the Army and Navy—who could be placed there without that necessary procedure ! She went on to say that the Prince of Wales' Fund had made a grant of £10,000 which had been allocated for special hospitals for officers suffering from nerve strain, but a similar sum had been absolutely refused for the rank and file. Dr. White, like Sir Frederick Milner, spoke with indignation of the men being placed in lunatic asylums, where 20,000 beds were being used for our soldiers. Although not placed actually with the insane, she maintained that the association and environment were exceedingly bad for them, as they very well knew where they were. Dr. Risien Russell, the eminent neurologist, who is also a member of the medical staff, expressed his great satisfaction in the Recuperative Hostels scheme, as it provided, he said, for *individual* treatment, which was so essential in nerve cases ; in like manner he congratulated the Committee in providing for the after-care of the patients. Dr. Stewart Mackintosh gave an interesting account of a patient of his own, who, he said, improved greatly while he was receiving individual attention, but as soon as he was placed in a military hospital, he went back steadily ; there was no fault with the hospital, but the military element, and the association of ideas were particularly bad for a case of that sort. A hearty vote of thanks for Lady Gort for so kindly lending her house was proposed by Sir Launcelot Aubrey-Fletcher, and seconded by Captain St. John, and carried with acclamation ; after which, dainty refreshments were hospitably served. B. K.

POOR LAW INFIRMARY MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

The Quarterly Meeting of the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association was held in the Board Room of Kensington Infirmary (by kind invitation of Miss Alsop) on April 28th at 3 p.m.

Miss Barton presided, and there was a large attendance. It was resolved to alter the rules of the Association so as to allow for its expansion in the future. It was also decided to invite all members, who had, for different reasons, to resign, to become Hon. Members of the Association.

The new Associates—the Superintendent Nurses of the smaller Infirmaries—had been invited to be present, but owing to the difficulties of travelling, not many of these were able to attend ; their letters, received from different parts of the country, one and all expressed the hope of coming on future occasions. A very hearty welcome was extended to them by all the members present.

An interesting discussion took place as to how the Association could best benefit these new Associates.

Miss Bodley, Matron of Selly Oak Infirmary, Birmingham, read a suggestive paper as to ways in which the Association could help Poor Law Nurses generally.

Miss Stansfeld (Chief Lady Inspector at the Local Government Board), Miss Amy Hughes, and Miss Wilde, Chairman of the Infirmary Committee, Kensington Board of Guardians, were amongst the guests invited to tea, and a hearty vote of thanks to the Kensington Guardians for kindly lending their Board Room for the meeting was responded to by Miss Wilde.

WEDDING BELLS.

GRAY—COOPER.—On April 26th, at St. John's, Red Lion Square (very quietly), Archibald Montague Henry Gray, M.D., Major, R.A.M.C., T.F., only son of the late F. A. Gray, of Ottery St. Mary, Devon, to Elsie, youngest daughter of the late F. B. Cooper, of Newcastle, Staffs.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

The Quarterly Meeting of the Matrons' Council was held by invitation of the President, Miss M. Heather-Bigg, who was in the chair, in the Nurses' Home, Charing Cross Hospital, on April 27th, at 4 p.m.

Before the business began, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said that she was sure all those present would wish to offer to Miss Heather-Bigg their congratulations on receiving the decoration of the Royal Red Cross from His Majesty the King. They all rejoiced to see their President thus honoured. She then, on behalf of the Council, asked Miss Heather-Bigg's acceptance of a sheaf of pink and rose tulips.

In expressing her thanks, Miss Heather-Bigg expressed pleasure at receiving the decoration. She regarded it as a public recognition of the efficiency of the Sisters and Nurses of Charing Cross Hospital, as it was their work for the sick and wounded which had earned it.

The Minutes having been read and confirmed, Miss Hulme, Hon. Secretary, reported that the ladies nominated as Vice-Presidents—Miss Livingstone Charteris, County Hospital, Bedford; Miss Jessie Davies, Royal Infirmary, Bradford; and Miss Christina Falconer, General Hospital, Cheltenham—had accepted office.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following ladies were elected members:—Miss J. R. Amour, Matron, and cert. Royal Infirmary, Sunderland.

Miss E. A. Beverly, Matron-Superintendent, Bethnal Green Schools, Leytonstone, cert. Camberwell Infirmary.

Mrs. J. M. Boeddicker, Matron, Highbury V.A.D. Hosp., Birmingham, cert. General Hosp., Birmingham.

Miss Edith Ellis, Matron, Royal National Sanatorium, Bournemouth, cert. Charing Cross Hospital.

Miss M. Crawfurd Kennedy, Matron, St. Mary's Nursery College, Hampstead, N.W., cert. Great Northern Hospital.

Miss J. McKinnon Smith, Matron, Isolation Hospital, Swindon, Wilts., cert. Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.

Miss R. Metherell, Matron, Freshford Cottage Hospital, nr. Bath, cert. Bridgwater Hospital.

Miss E. Mina Thomas, Matron, Peterborough City and Borough Fever Hospital, cert. Durham County Hospital.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick remarked that in listening to the records of training and service of the ladies elected, one must be struck with the value of their professional experience, and how necessary it was that Matrons in charge of every variety of hospital, and not only of the few larger training-schools, should have an organization like the Matrons' Council, through which they could express their considered opinions.

SOLICITORS (QUALIFICATION OF WOMEN) BILL.

The Hon. Secretary read a communication from the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland inviting the Council to support the following Resolution:—

RESOLUTION.

"That the Committee urges the Government to give time for, or itself adopt, the Solicitors (Qualification of Women) Bill, which enables women to practise as solicitors in England and Wales, and which has passed its third reading in the House of Lords: and further urges that a corresponding Bill to enable women to practise as Law Agents (*i.e.*, Solicitors) in Scotland should be passed through the House with the English Bill."

In proposing the resolution, Mrs. Fenwick said that the Bill had passed the House of Lords, and that she hoped, if it became law, women would soon be admitted as members of the Bar, and help to purify its proceedings in Court. From personal experience of Courts for a number of years, she considered that many reforms were urgently needed.

The resolution was seconded by Miss Heather-Bigg.

Miss Hulme said at a meeting recently attended she had heard a K.C. declare that there was no reason why women should not hold every position from Clerk to Judge—it would help to elevate methods of business.

Miss Breay said that the need for women solicitors was evident to those who heard midwives cited before the Central Midwives Board. These poor women, who employed solicitors whose services they could ill afford, often received no adequate help. So little did one solicitor understand what he was talking about, that he informed the Board that a case was "only one of puerperal fever." Had it been anything serious his client, who was accused of not notifying her local supervising authority that she had sent for medical help, would, he said, of course have notified it.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

The National Union of Trained Nurses was welcomed by the Council "into the Federation of Free Nurses" grouped in the National Council of Trained Nurses.

At the conclusion of the meeting, tea was served in the Lounge, and afforded a pleasant opportunity for friendly intercourse.

After tea, a lecture by Mr. Eustace Miles, on "Health—Food and Economy" was listened to with great pleasure. It will be reported at length next week.

ANNIE E. HULME,
Hon. Secretary.

THE POOR-LAW UNIONS' ASSOCIATION COUNCIL AND THE NURSING QUESTION.

The Executive Council of the Poor-Law Unions' Association will meet in London on Thursday, May 3rd. It will be observed with interest, states the *Poor Law Officers' Journal*, that the Parliamentary Committee in their report, which will be presented to the meeting, deal effectively with the question of the College of Nursing. There is also brought under notice the cognate matter of "the unsuccessful negotiations on drafting a conjoint Nurses' Registration Bill which have taken place between the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses and the College of Nursing, Ltd." Both of these matters, connected as they are, must be regarded as of the first importance to Guardians on the Hospital side of their administration. The Parliamentary Committee explain in their report that they "understand that the statement issued by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses has, together with a copy of the Draft Bill, been circulated among the Poor-Law Unions in England and Wales. The differences which have arisen with the College of Nursing are, therefore, well known, as well as the fact that the Central Committee intends to proceed with its own Bill, of which the fundamental principles are stated as follows, viz. :—That provision be made—(1) For a Statutory General Nursing Council to regulate the qualifications of trained nurses and provide for their registration. (2) For direct representation of the nursing profession on the General Nursing Council, and the insertion in the Bill of the authorities empowered to nominate the Council. (3) For a three years' term of grace, after the passing of the Act, for the registration of nurses in practice—who hold a certificate of training, or produce evidence of training satisfactory to the Council—without further examination. (4) For the provision at the expiration of the said term of grace that a nurse must have had not less than three years' training under a definite curriculum prescribed by the Council in the wards of a hospital, or of hospitals, approved by the Council, and that such person must have passed such examination as the Council may prescribe. The Committee recognise the importance of taking strong action in regard to the subject, and are continuing to press the promoters of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and its associates for a definite statement of their intentions as regards the decisions of the Association, upon the receipt of which a further report will be made to the Council. At the same time, the Committee have further decided to recommend the Council that inquiry be made of the Central Committee for State Registration to what extent they would be prepared to adopt the decisions of this Association in the Bill which such Committee propose to introduce. Developments in these matters will be awaited by Guardians with assurance that their interests are being carefully safeguarded by the Association acting through the Committee.

IRISH NURSES AND SELF-GOVERNMENT.

An Irish Nursing Board.

The Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland has unanimously adopted a scheme for the promotion of an Irish Nursing Board. It is hoped soon to announce the details of this scheme, which no doubt will specially commend itself to Irish Nurses, as it will be drawn up and entirely controlled by professional experts in Ireland, in contradistinction to the Board, lately set up in Dublin, which is a branch of the College of Nursing, Ltd., London.

The College of Nursing, Ltd.

We note that the *Weekly Irish Times*, which has supported the College of Nursing, Ltd., scheme all along, as against the opinion of the Irish Nurses' Association, continues to write of the former as the Royal British College of Nursing. This is very misleading to Irish Nurses, as no such body is at present constituted. From last week's issue we gather that the programme of the College is a hodge-podge of education and benevolence, in our opinion a very undesirable mixture, and one which we very much fear will lower, not raise, the status of trained nurses. Trained nurses are not objects of charity, and would do well to protest against the so-called Irish Board appealing to the public for doles without consulting them. The action of the College Council in London in bracketing Endowment and Benevolence in an appeal being made for it by the members of the Dramatic Profession—although in the advertisement the College of Nursing is carefully excluded—is rousing much feeling and discussion in London.

We are not paupers, and the College of Nursing has no mandate to present us as such to the charitable public.

A Nominated Board for Ireland.

The machinery of the College Board, Irish Section, we are told, is complete. "Offices have been secured at 23 Kildare Street, and will be opened on June 1st, and Miss Matheson, daughter of Mr. Charles L. Matheson, K.C., has been appointed Secretary. Miss Matheson is a trained nurse, and in addition she has had a distinguished career in the University of Dublin. The Chairman is Dr. George Peacocke, the Vice-Chairman Sir Andrew Horne, the Hon. Treasurer Mr. Andrew Beattie, D.L., and the Hon. Secretary Miss Reed, of Ivanhoe. These four officers, together with Miss Eddison, of the Royal City of Dublin Hospital, and Miss Curtin, of the Mater Infirmorum Hospital, Belfast, are the six delegates nominated by the Irish Board to act on the Council of the College in London."

It will be seen that three out of four of the Executive offices have been monopolised by men, (one presumably a layman) following the determined policy of the College Company, and that there are only two Irish nurses on the Council of the College, as Miss Eddison is an Englishwoman trained at St. Thomas' Hospital, London. We learn that there is quiet determination in Ireland upon the part of many Irish nurses in practice not to be governed by a *nominated* Body, such as this Irish College Board, but to work steadfastly for legal status through an Act of Parliament, as they have been doing for many years, on which they will elect their own representatives. The College Register is merely a *voluntary* scheme, so that the system will make no real impression on the status of trained nurses, and as large numbers of semi-trained and uncertificated nurses have naturally rushed on to it, real improvement and the raising of the standard of nursing can only be effected through an Act of Parliament We stand for that.

Voluntary schemes have failed, and will continue to fail Moreover, Irish Nurses have little faith in the *volte face* of the avowed anti-registrationists who are now attempting to grasp power over them, which is arousing much bitter feeling in Ireland. They argue that Misses Reed, Shuter and Eddison, in opposing the demand for State Registration in Ireland for so many years, were not acting from principle but from prejudice, and that what they objected to was not State Registration, but a system which provided for the self-government of the nursing profession, as against the College Scheme of government of the Nursing profession by their employers and the Nursing Schools.

GENEROUS SUPPORT FOR A JUST BILL.

The President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses acknowledges with sincere thanks cheques for £10 from Miss B. Kent and Miss Annie Hulme, for £1 1s. from Mrs. Myers, for 10s. from Miss P. Shanklin-Smith, for 10s. from Miss Craigen, R.N.S., 5s. from Miss A. Henderson (Cape Town), 3s. 6d. from Miss M. C. Kennedy, 2s. 6d. from Miss H. Hawkins, 2s. 6d. from Miss A. E. Schuller, 2s. from Miss Florence E. Wise, and 2s. from Miss L. E. Woodrow.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

SCOTTISH BOARD.

We are informed that the following Nurses have been elected members of the Scottish Board :—

Miss Jessie Henderson, Nurses' Co-operation, Glasgow.

Miss Catherine Gardner, Nurses' Co-operation, Glasgow.

Miss Ruby M. McPhail, 36, Grindlay Street, Edinburgh.

Miss Catherine Kay, Nursing Home, Drummond Place, Edinburgh.

Miss Morrison, Q.V.J.I.N., Northern Infirmary, Inverness.

Miss Flora Ross, Q.V.J.I.N., Ingleboro' House, Aberdeen.

We are not informed by whom these Nurses have been elected.

APPOINTMENTS.

LADY SUPERVISOR.

Daimler Motor Company.—Miss Irene Webb has been appointed Lady Supervisor of Women's Labour in the factories of the Daimler Motor Company. She was trained at the London Hospital, and has worked under the Metropolitan Asylums Board as Charge Nurse, Night Superintendent, and Assistant Matron, and has held the position of Matron of the Leicester Fever Hospital, the Bolton Fever Hospital, the Bucknall Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent, and the Clare Hall Sanatorium, Barnet.

NIGHT SISTER.

General Hospital, Darlington.—Mrs. Nixon has been appointed Night Sister. She was trained at the Essex County Hospital, Colchester, and has been Sister and Night Superintendent at the City Fever Hospital, Leeds. She has also had experience of private nursing.

SISTER.

Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital, Aylesbury.—Miss Pollie Wood has been appointed Sister. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Derby.

EXAMINATIONS.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, E.C.

The following nurses have passed their Final Examination at the end of three years training and qualified for the Certificate of efficiency as trained nurses. In this connection it is satisfactory to note that the Hospital Authorities grant a pass certificate, and do not permit its qualification by the Matron, a system in our opinion which is very undesirable, and often causes a sense of justifiable resentment upon the part of those handed certificates in which interpolated words, written in, "damn it with faint praise." We believe the "qualified" certificate system originated at the London Hospital.

FINAL EXAMINATION.

Nurses V. Kennedy (Gold Medallist), N. Bagnall, B. K. Anderson, M. G. Whitridge, L. Willey, A. Woolsey, A. M. Irvin, Vera Evans, Elsie Evans, E. Fenn, M. Thorpe, R. Child, V. Colville, Sullivan, M. Lovell, C. Robertson, D. M. Turner, G. W Hickson, K. von Kaufmann, D. Johnson, F. E. Dunn, M. Hudson, A. Bunting, T. M. Robertson, S. A. Griffith, L. Woodward, B. Kemp.

FIRST YEAR EXAMINATION.

Miss M. L. Beebe passed first, and has been awarded the Prize of Books.

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Council meeting of the National Union of Trained Nurses was held at 46, Marsham Street, S.W. 1, on April 26th, with a good attendance of Branch Representatives, and presided over by Miss Pearse.

Miss M. Heather Bigg, Matron of Charing Cross Hospital, was unanimously elected President.

The adoption of the Annual Report was coupled with "An expression of approval of the action taken by the Executive Committee, and the representatives appointed on the Central Committee for State Registration, in supporting that body in its effort to come to an agreement with the College of Nursing, without sacrificing the principle that the Nurses' Societies should be represented on the first statutory Council for State Registration"; so the action of the Executive Committee in upholding the decision of the last Council was again endorsed.

The Chairman spoke on the development of the Union as a self-governing National Society, and suggestions with discussion followed.

In connection with the consideration of State Registration, the following resolution was proposed and carried nem. con:—"That the Council desires to support the Central Committee for State Registration for the following reasons:—

1. Because it feels that loyalty is due to the body, which has, by its faithful and efficient work, made it possible to look forward to the introduction of State Registration as a recognised necessity, and

2. Because the Bill promoted by the Central Committee secures the vital principle that the organised societies of nurses shall be represented on the first Council, and provides the desirable guarantees that hospital training and (after the time of grace) a Central Examination shall be necessary qualifications for the General Register."

MISS E. M. CANCELLOR,
Chairman, Executive Committee, N.U.T.N.

The London Branch.

At a recent meeting of the London Branch of the National Union of Trained Nurses, held at 46, Marsham Street, S.W. 1, a most interesting paper on Infant Welfare was read by Miss Marsters (Supt., Paddington District Nursing Association), and followed by questions and discussion.

On April 24th, Miss Pearse spoke at Charing Cross Hospital on the aims of the N.U.T.N. Referring to the State Registration Bills, she emphasised the fact that nurses should well consider their views and actions as the "period of grace" would ensure plenty of time.

The Cambridge Branch.

In connection with the N.U.T.N., Cambridge, a club-room has just been opened; furniture has been given and there are funds in hand for the first year.

Miss Eustace (Matron of Fitzroy Street Home) said that it was considered such a room would be of value to nurses, both for social and educational purposes.

Mrs. Mellish Clark, in opening the club, said that she hoped at the end of the year the experiment would have resolved itself into a triumphant success.

Miss E. M. Cancellor, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Union of Trained Nurses, is well known to many of our readers. She was trained at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, and is Matron of the Frimley Cottage Hospital. During the war Miss Cancellor has worked in France as Sister in the Urgency Cases Hospital for three months, and is at present in Belgium on the Staff of the Hôpital de l'Ocean, La Panne.

New Appointments.

La Panne.—Miss M. Nicholson, Sister.

Red Cross Hospital, Barnet.—Miss E. L. Swankie, Sister.

Red Cross Hospital, Cirencester.—Miss D. Yarborough, Sister.

Exeter V. A. Hospital.—Mrs. Scott-Blades, Assistant Matron; Miss M. Ricketts, Sister.

TRAINED NURSES AND THE LABOUR PARTY.

A Deputation, introduced by Mrs. Sidney Webb, was received at the House of Commons by Mr. G. J. Wardle, Chairman of the Labour Party, on Wednesday afternoon, of delegates from the National Union of Trained Nurses, the Scottish Nurses' Association, and the Irish Nurses' Association, to lay before him the opinions of the members of these societies on the question of the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

NURSING ECHOES.

At St. Thomas's Hospital, the Archbishop of Canterbury on April 25th dedicated a memorial which has been erected to the memory of Miss Florence Nightingale. The Archbishop said this memorial had been put in the right place, at the right time, and for the right purpose. It was entirely appropriate that a memorial should be erected at St. Thomas's Hospital, with which the nursing work of Miss Florence Nightingale was so very closely associated. It had been placed in the hospital chapel, where the religious life of the institution was centred to inspire the whole. It had been erected at the right time, when the greatest strides had been made in women's life, and it served to commemorate as an example, and to inspire those who in the present day are the representatives of the whole enthusiasm of her skill and of her deftness. The memorial is a replica of the bas-relief erected in the crypt of St. Paul's, and unveiled by Her Majesty the Queen twelve months ago, of which we published an illustration at the time. It represents Miss Nightingale as a nurse attending a wounded soldier, framed in alabaster, and is the work of Mr. Arthur G. Walker.

The Southwark Infirmary Nurses' League, which was founded in 1914, issues an Annual Register instead of a League Journal. The Infirmary has become Southwark Military Hospital, and fine work in aid of our sick and wounded is now being carried on there. The Matron, Miss Wallace, and her full staff remain, with 80 probationers and many V.A.D.'s. The probationers are sent in detachments (four Seniors and eight Juniors) for three months at a time to Lambeth Infirmary for experience in the nursing of women and children.

The spirit of the League is thoroughly sound. In spite of all the changes it is written "Our Nurses' League holds on, and though we have little time to attend to ourselves we must keep it alive and healthy and active, for these abnormal times will pass, and other times will come, when we shall have to be of service to one another." We are all looking forward to the time when we members of the National Council of Nurses of which the Southwark Infirmary League forms part, may once more enjoy our Conferences, and promote the highest ideals of the profession.

The Annual Register is excellently printed on fine paper, and contains illustrations of groups of nurses and doctors in pretty military uniform, and khaki.

On Saturday evening last Mrs. Lauriston Shaw addressed an interested audience on the subject of the St. Marylebone Nursing Homes War Savings Association at No. 3, Nottingham Place, by kind invitation of Mrs. Fleming. Mrs. Arthur Stabb, the Hon. Treasurer of the Association, announced that she would be at home on Tuesday afternoons at 132, Harley Street, W., to receive contributions, which are placed on the cards as stamps. Several of those present took cards after the meeting, and more announced their intention of so doing.

At the recent Annual Meeting of the Cheltenham General Hospital, the very efficient work of the Matron, Miss Falconer, and of the Secretary, Mr. Head, received well-merited appreciation from the Mayor of the town.

The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Manchester will hold a Dedication Service in the Chapel of the Manchester Royal Infirmary on Sunday, May 6th, 1917, at 3.15 p.m., when a Memorial to the late Sister French will be unveiled.

We have had several letters lately, not for publication, but drawing our attention to the food question in hospitals. All agree that the dieting of medical cases especially needs attention, and whilst realising the difficulties under which the commissariat is run in war time, seem to think if dietetics were more generally studied, both by doctors and nurses, conditions would be improved. One nurse writes:—"I have been having a spell of hospital work, after some years private nursing. The food of the patients seems to me the most urgent question to be considered. It is much worse than it was in my hospital days, and not necessarily the result of war conditions. Instead of being one of the most important items of treatment, dietetics are not considered treatment at all. I wonder why? Why do not nurses and Sisters have to keep a dietary record of each patient for the medical attendant? They report the result of drugs—which don't matter so much, or only in conjunction with the digestive functions. If patients cannot or do not eat their food, it does not seem to matter, when, in fact, it is often the most important matter in their recovery. America is far ahead of us in this particular, as in many other nursing details."

"Sister from France" writes:—"I shall never be grateful enough for having worked in France. I have learned the language, and I have learned not to make fun of 'little Mary'; so very much depends upon 'her' with

our poor medical cases. First I made friends with our dear old *chef*, and he gave away his necromancing methods of making appetising dishes out of nothing, and his secrets for 'body building,' into which liquids or *mousses* he compressed the essentials of flesh, fish, eggs, cream, flour, and *legumes*, to be served *à la cuiller!* When I think of the hard food plumped down on many an English hospital locker, to take or leave, the draughts of cold milk, the entire lack of *finesse* with which many ward meals are served, I long to set up a school in London, where 'body building' can be scientifically taught. Perhaps this will be my 'lesson from the war' to be handed on; we shall all want to be of some national use when Peace reigns once more, and not to sink into our former sloth and oblivion."

We have received a very interesting letter from the opposite point of view which will appear in full next week. We remember the old days when special diets and potatoes were cooked in ward kitchens and served piping hot.

Miss Grace Elliott, a Red Cross nurse who has been working for a year at the hospital at Steventon, near Abingdon, mysteriously disappeared on the afternoon of March 19th, and nothing has since been heard of her. Miss Elliott left the hospital to get her bicycle, which was being repaired at Abingdon. She took the machine away. Nobody knows which way she went on leaving the shop. She was 43, of slight build, and hair turning grey. She left £10, jewellery, and other belongings in her room at the hospital. Anybody who thinks he has seen her since March 19th, is requested to write to her father at 1, Grosvenor Place, Jesmond, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The position of Matron of the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, now vacant, is an important and desirable one. Just on the outskirts of an interesting old county town, and surrounded by lovely country, the hospital is one to attract many who prefer a country life to that of large towns.

OUR ROLL OF HONOUR.

The following casualties in the Nursing Service are officially reported:—Died: Dickson, Miss M. C., Voluntary Aid Detachment; Duncan, Sister I. L., Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve; Sinclair, Sister C., Harvard Unit; Watson, Staff Nurse D. M., Territorial Force Nursing Service. We offer our sincere sympathy to the relatives of those who have thus laid down their lives for their country.

MISS CAVELL'S FAREWELL.

By Roy Temple House.

(Late of the Brussels Office, Commission for Relief in Belgium.)

Professor House here relates the touching story of Miss Edith Cavell's last hours, as it was told to him by the Rev. Mr. Gahan, the young Irish clergyman of the Church of England, who was summoned to the Brussels prison to minister to Miss Cavell. Mr. Gahan was the last countryman Miss Cavell saw before she was led forth to be shot. Her wonderful fortitude and calm faith made of her a heroine who will always live in the memory of the English people.

The Reverend Mr. Gahan, chaplain of Christ Church in Brussels, is a cheerful young Irishman of about thirty. He was appointed to his present position early in 1914, and charmed with the prospect of a permanent location in the cosy Belgian capital, he paid a visit to Gloucestershire, England, was married to a young English girl who had been waiting as eagerly as he for this appointment, and settled down happily in the Rue de Facqz. But scarcely had she unpacked her trunks when the news came that war was declared and that the Germans were on Belgian soil. So it came about that the pair have spent all but a few weeks of their two and a-half years of married life as prisoners of the Germans. When the conquerors marched into Brussels in the latter part of August, 1914, they arrested all the inhabitants who were citizens of enemy countries. Mr. Gahan was imprisoned with the rest and for two or three days he shared a cell with an English Catholic priest. Then he was released on parole, and since then he has been allowed to move about the city with perfect freedom, on condition that he gives an account of himself once a week at the police headquarters of his *faubourg*.

In normal times there are in Brussels three Anglican churches, an English Catholic church, and a Scotch church. Brussels was a pleasant city to live in, with excellent museums, good theatres and opera, and a comfortable, tolerant population who welcomed foreigners. The cost of living, moreover, was much less than in any large city of England, a fact of which thousands of Englishmen of modest means were glad to take advantage. It happened that the ministers of the other two Anglican churches were out of the country when the Germans took charge of Belgium, and it is needless to say that they have not yet returned. Chaplain Gahan now has all the English-speaking people who attend church, and even at that he will have a congregation of not more than a dozen or two in the morning and half a dozen in the evening. His only word from the outside, except what a few of us Americans have brought him, has been one letter from his mother.

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Other shapes in Bonnets from **6/11.**
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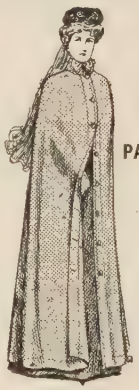

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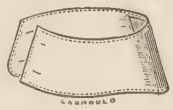

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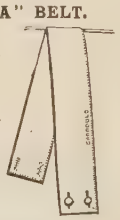

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Telegrams—"GARROULD, LONDON." **Telephones—5320, 5321, and 6297 PADDINGTON.**

delight. It was at first puzzled and then pleased to find in this British citizen an attitude toward the war and toward his German captors which was larger and saner than that of most partisans I have met. His experiences with the Germans had not led him to brand them indiscriminately as rascals, and he seemed to be looking forward to an outcome which would bring, not merely or even entirely, the aggrandisement of England, but the advancement of the cause of Christ. Vigorous patriot as he was, he was no blind jingo. And this was one reason why I found an occasional evening with him and his cordial young wife very pleasant.

During one of the first of these evenings, as we sat and nursed our tiny fire—coal is a luxury in Brussels now, and poor Anglican chaplains cannot indulge in it freely, even when they have guests—there floated vaguely into my mind a statement which the American Press had published about an English clergyman who had visited Miss Cavell the night before her execution. I had forgotten the clergyman's name, and it occurred to me to ask my host about it. "His name was Gahan," said the young man quietly. His wife looked up at me quickly from her work on the other side of the open stove, then dropped her eyes again. There was a pause.

He seemed to pull himself together with an effort. I guessed why, but I hope it did him no real injury to tell the story again. "Of course I will tell it, if you wish to hear it," he said. And for an hour or two, with the guns of the battle-line seventy-five miles off to the west rumbling faintly in the pauses, he and his wife, in turn, told me this detail and that of the sickening story.

But it was not all sickening. There is a phase of it which the newspapers touched lightly, but which it is inspiring and encouraging to hear, without any reference to the accident of Miss Cavell's nationality or her partisan sympathies.

She had not been a member of Mr. Gahan's church, but of one of the others. From August, 1914, she had, of course, attended Christ Church when she attended church at all, but her work in her hospital kept her so busy that the chaplain had met her only a few times. One afternoon the German military chaplain sent word to him that he was wanted to go that evening to talk with an Englishwoman who was "dying." He had been deeply interested in the imprisonment and trial of Miss Cavell, but he had no suspicion that she was the "dying" woman in question. He was delayed in starting, and when he was finally ready, he was informed that his destination was the St. Gilles prison.

Miss Cavell had waited for him some time, but had finally concluded that he was prevented from coming, and had retired. When she learned that he had come after all, she dressed again and came out to meet him. He was so unnerved by what had been told him on the way—that she was to be shot the next morning—that he could scarcely stand and his speech was only a stammer; but the quiet, gray-haired woman who came to meet him was as calm and cheerful as if the next day were to be a day of routine usefulness in her hospital. The hand she offered him was steady and cool, and there was not a tremor in her voice.

They sat down and talked of this and that, even of small matters. But after a time she began to tell him of the trial and the sentence. "I have no regrets," she said. "I did what I could for my country, and I am ready to pay the price. I should certainly do the same thing again if I could. I am sure that in God's sight I am not an offender, for I did what seemed to me clearly my duty. And that is the only thing that matters, my friend—to do one's duty."

So this condemned criminal, within a few hours of her death, sat teaching and consoling the minister who had come to help her. "I know more about life and death and eternity than I ever did before," she said. "It is all clear now. I think I am past all passion and prejudice. I am blaming no one, but I see my own path perfectly well, and I am glad I took the path I did, although it has not always been as clear all the way as it is now. Oh, how little and insignificant they seem to me now, the selfish things we men and women spend our lives struggling for! What happens to you as a result of trying to be useful can't be anything but good, dear friend, and so I know that what will come to me to-morrow morning can be nothing but good!"

In some such words as these did this unflinching Christian heroine set forth her philosophy of life, her vision of the Truth, to the last fellow-countryman she ever spoke a word to; and after an hour or two of quiet conversation, she rose and gave him her hand again, saying: "Good-night, sir; I must get a little sleep now. God bless you; don't forget me!"

. . There was another pause. The young chaplain sat and gazed into his little Belgian stove. Then he went on: "I am sure she slept, as she said she expected to." Then he sat up in his chair. "Do you know, sir, that that woman had seen and heard something that has never reached you and me? Something definite, something concrete, I mean, about the meaning and purpose of it all? No man could have spent an hour with Miss Edith Cavell, as I did, no matter what he may have been before, and come out from that prison anything but a firm believer. It was hard—it was horrible—but it was wonderful, sir, wonderful!"

And as I passed the St. Gilles prison the next morning, it seemed to have lost something of its gruesomeness and to have taken on something of the beauty of that great soul which went heavenward from its doors.

We are indebted to *The Canadian Nurse* for having brought this interesting article before the nursing world.—Reprinted from the *New York Churchman.*

Alexandra Day will be celebrated on June 20th. £313,000 has been collected for hospitals and convalescent homes since the inception of the Fund in 1912.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

"ENCHANTMENT."*

We heartily commend this book to the notice of all classes of fiction lovers It is really exactly what is needed at the present time when there is so much to sadden and depress. It brims over with that most delightful of humour—Irish humour. This is depicted by one who is evidently very much at home with the whimsicalities and contradictions of that attractive nation. The plot, too, is original in its conception and the story holds its sway from start to finish

At the very outset of the book we are confronted with that hard ultimatum which the Catholic Church lays down for her children, that if in childbirth either the life of the mother or the child must be sacrificed, it is the child who must be saved. Such a decision had to be made by John Desmond, master of Waterpark, at the birth of his tenth child.

It was the doctor who put it to John Desmond, half bemused as he was with whiskey.

"'Tis a matter of losing the mother or child," he said grimly, "and I'm waiting to know from yourself, John Desmond, which it is to be. Will ye pull yourself together now, for the love of God, and if 'tis abiding by the laws of the Holy Church ye are, will ye come upstairs and hold the hand of the poor creature before she goes her suffering ways out of this world?"

Desmond decides in favour of the mother, but, as a propitiation, vows that if the child shall survive and be a girl she shall enter a convent in due course. But it was ordained that in spite of efforts to the contrary the mother died and the tenth child, a daughter, was born alive to the drunkard John Desmond.

Mrs. Slattery, his housekeeper, excellent soul, made many remonstrances with her master about his drunken habits.

"What pleasure is in it, I should like to know?"

"What pleasure? Wasn't I sittin' on the bed the other night and didn't the door open, the way fifty weasels 'ud be comin' in, in evening dress? Would ye be gettin' as much entertainment as that out of a glass of water? Ye would not."

It was when his little daughter Patricia was six years old that John Desmond sent for Father Casey to ask if he could make a bargain with the Lord God.

"Well, when ye say a bargain," the priest began cautiously, "when ye say a bargain 'tis the way ye mean ye're goin' to get the best of it."

"Yirra I wouldn't do such a thing. And if I did, sure wouldn't the infinite mercy of the Almighty God make allowances for me the way I'd be only a man, and not always sober at that."

The bargain he proposed was that if little Pat could be released from the vow by which he had bound her at birth, he himself would give up drinking.

Patricia was not informed of her release, and she was brought up to consider herself vowed to the religious life.

For, said her father to the priest, "let 'em all think the way she's going into a convent. 'Twill do no harm to her, for 'tis a little divvle she is entirely. Her eyes weren't made for the good of her soul, I'm thinkin'."

It was when Pat was at the age of sixteen that an invitation came to the daughters of John Desmond, to a dance at a house in Stradbally, "*Come along the whole bang lot of you.*"

Pat decided that in spite of her vocation as a nun she would not be left out of the fun, "and I'm goin' with me hair up, if I have to walk the way of the roads within me stockin' vamps," said she.

Good Mrs. Slattery objected. "If it's the way Pat's goin' into a convent I'm thinkin' 'tis a queer way for her, she tastin' the diversions of life the time she'd be puttin' the world away from her."

Pat makes answer, "'Tis going into a convent I am sure enough. But I'll be seein' what sort of place the world is first, the way I'll be knowin' the thing I'm well quit of."

The way Desmond eventually broke his bargain with heaven, and the way Pat's impetuous lover stood in the way of her being sacrificed to her father's rash vow, is all very well told, and the climax is not lacking in excitement. A very excellent tale!

H. H.

*By E. Temple Thurston. T. Fisher Unwin, London.

ENGLAND, RISE!

England, rise! Thine ancient thunder
Humbled mightier foes than these:
Broke a whole world's bonds asunder,
Gave thee empire o'er the seas:
And while yet one rose may blossom,
Emblem of thy former bloom—
Let not age invade thy bosom—
Brightest shine in darkest gloom!

While one oak thy homes shall shadow,
Stand like it as thou hast stood;
While a spring greets grove and meadow,
Let not winter freeze thy blood.
Till this hour St. George's Standard
Led the advancing march of time:
England! keep it streaming vanward,
Conqueror over age and clime!

Branwell Brontë.

COMING EVENTS.

May 5th.—Irish Nurses' Association, Meeting Executive Committee, 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin. 8 p.m.

May 21st–25th.—Post Graduate Week for Midwives, General Lying-in Hospital, York Rd., Lambeth, S.E.

May 23rd.—Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society. Annual Meeting. 431, Oxford Street, London, W., 4.30 p.m.

THE "FRENCH" CAP.

With or without Red Cross, full mob crown, with strings to tie at back, entirely covering the hair. Each **1/3**

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IN order to decrease the large stocks in the Nurses' Department, we are NOW selling Nurses' Cloaks, Bonnets, Hats, Frocks, Underwear, etc., at REDUCED PRICES.

If you cannot call, be sure and write us for particulars immediately, and take advantage of these Special Reductions.

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Made in 13 Varieties: Tomato, Oxtail, Mulligatawny, Lentil, Kidney, Hare, Mock Turtle, Green Pea, Celery, Pea, Scotch Broth, Onion, White Vegetable.

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PRIZE COMPETITION.

COUPON, May 5th, 1917.

Name of Competitor

Address

RULES FOR COMPETITION.

1. Any reader of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING may compete for the prize of **FIVE SHILLINGS** which will be paid to the **writer of the best article of from 300 to 750 words on the following subject--"Differentiate between (a) communicable, (b) contagious, and (c) infectious diseases, and give an example of each."**

The dated Coupon for May 5th, published on this page, must be cut out by the Competitor, and enclosed with the article she sends, with her full name and address inserted. The number of words of article to be written on left hand top corner of first page. This answer should be posted not later than **May 5th,** to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole St., London, W. 1, marked on the envelope "Prize Competition." **The Name of the Winner of the Prize and the Prize Article will appear on May 12th, 1917.**

2. The Editor's decision must be accepted by each Competitor as final and unquestionable.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY *hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.*

THE NURSING PROFESSION IS NOT AN OBJECT OF CHARITY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The "National Fund for Nurses" adverted to in last week's Editorial is indeed an astounding piece of news. The College seems to be instigating a sort of charitable appeal for us nurses, without even consulting us, through our Associations. If this Benevolent Fund is to put the College on a permanent basis and the College is to be the Body for governing the nursing profession in the future, this proceeding appears to me to be most dangerous to our economic condition. The cost incurred by our enfranchisement must be defrayed by none but ourselves, or our freedom as a profession and our liberties as members of the same will be gravely jeopardised. He who pays the piper, &c. The Registration Fees if wisely administered should cover all the expenses of an independent Statutory Authority. We, as women, shall doubtless before long be able to exercise the power of the Parliamentary vote. As nurses under the present scheme of the College, we shall be inarticulate and under the rule of its lay governing body—a most anomalous and impossible position. Until the College gives adequate *direct* representation to the nurses themselves I look on its constitution as a very menacing danger, and I thoroughly deprecate the idea of being made use of to get money for its endowment.

Yours faithfully,
ELLEN B. KINGSFORD,
(*Cert. St. Bartholomew's Hospital*).

Fallow Corner Home for
Homeless Children,
North Finchley, N. 12.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Another surprise for us! I read in the Editorial of the JOURNAL for this week that the dramatic profession is proposing to take an oar and paddle our canoe for us! I wonder how it is that all sorts of men and women, without knowledge or experience, are seized with a passion for organising the Nursing Profession. Does it never occur to these unqualified people that if they would exercise their imagination and look at a reversal of the situation they would see the absurdity of this interference. What would the actresses think, and more especially, what would they *say*, if a group of trained Nurses were to set to work to establish schemes for their benefit without any consultation with them? And yet that is not more absurd than that the actresses should concern themselves with our professional affairs. No doubt it is kindly meant, but that is not what we want. If the public want to help us, let them use all the influence and power they have in getting Parliament to pass a *just* Registration Act, on the lines of *pure democracy*, such as that drafted by the Central Committee for State Registration, through which a Central Authority, or General Nursing Council, will be set up, upon which Nurses will have direct representation, *Power to govern our own Profession.* (This principle cannot be too frequently reiterated.) *Thus*, when we have set our house in order, in other words, organised ourselves, we shall be in a position to consider and accept endowments for our professional education, just like other professions. When will the public realise that ours is a skilled Profession, and not a mere domestic hobby?

BEARTICE KENT.

Colosseum Terrace, N.W.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA RELIEF FUND FOR NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I venture to ask if you would allow me, through the medium of your paper, to express, on behalf of the Committee of the Queen Alexandra Relief Fund for War Nurses, our sincere thanks to the members of the original Sisters' Mess at Malta, for their most generous gift of £21 to the Fund, which has been forwarded to us through Sister Carruthers. I should also like to take this opportunity of thanking all those Nurses who have so kindly placed donations in our collecting box at the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses, as I have received from the Secretary the sum of £4 1s. towards this Fund, which has been collected in the box. We are not only most grateful for this help, but glad to feel the efforts of this Fund for Nurses are so much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,
MARY E. WATNEY,
Hon. Secretary.

We regret that, owing to great pressure on our space this week, several important communications are held over.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

QUESTIONS.

May 12th.—Differentiate between (*a*) communicable, (*b*) contagious, and (*c*) infectious diseases, and give an example of each.

ORDER "THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING."

It is necessary that all readers of "The British Journal of Nursing" should without delay place orders with their newsagents for the regular supply of the paper, otherwise they will not be able to obtain a copy. Newsagents will provide only for an assured sale. Price, 2d. weekly.

"THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING" can be bought direct from the printers, 69, Long Acre, London, W.C., and, in the West End, at 431, Oxford Street, London, W. (first floor).

The Midwife.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

PENAL CASES.

A special Meeting of the Central Midwives Board under the provisions of Rule D. 8 and D. 16 was held at Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Dartmouth Street, Westminster, on Friday, April 20th, at 11 a.m., with the following results :—

Struck off the Roll and Certificate Cancelled.—Midwives Elia Ballinger (No. 7440), Sarah Beastall (No. 20927), Frances Louisa Bracey (No. 31514), Catherine Collins (No. 16663), Elizabeth Funnell (No. 751), Abigail May (No. 2483), and Isabella Warren (No. 14146).

Sentence Postponed for Six Months, and Report asked for from the Local Supervising Authority at three and six months.—Midwife F. H. Phillips (No. 2882).

In the case of Mrs. Ballinger the charge was that, the patient suffering from excessive bleeding, she did not immediately explain that the attendance of a registered medical practitioner was required. The husband of the patient (who died) Mr. Ford, attended and gave evidence, and Dr. Martin, representing the Local Supervising Authority, was also present.

The case centred largely round the question of whether the midwife summoned medical help within two hours of the birth of the child, and also whether there was excessive external hæmorrhage. In reply to the Chairman of the Board Dr. Martin said that, for a bona fide midwife, Mrs. Ballinger was fairly satisfactory, but he could not say she was a safe woman—the knowledge of bona fide midwives was not sufficient to make them so.

Mrs. Bracey was defended by her solicitor, and there were a number of witnesses in the case, including a patient concerned. One of the charges against Mrs. Bracey was that she did not hand to the husband or nearest relative the form for sending for medical help. The Midwife's defence on this point was that the husband was an absentee from military service and would not go out for fear of being seen by the police.

Another charge against Mrs. Bracey was that notwithstanding the serious condition of the patient on Sunday, November 26th, she neglected to visit her on Monday, November 27th until 8 p.m. There is no doubt that the patient should have been visited sooner, but in this connection it may be remembered that the work being done by midwives is very heavy just now, and we understand that Mrs. Bracey was doing not only her own work but that of a colleague at the time.

One of the charges against Mrs. Funnell was that in contravention of Rule E. 18, she laid out the dead body of a person, not being a patient upon whom she had been in attendance at the time of death. Mrs. Funnell denied this, stating that she only instructed the relatives what to do. She did not, she said, touch the body. She admitted however that she helped to remove the bed from under the patient, to remove the night-shirt, and to tie up the jaw and tie the legs together.

Abigail May, in her written defence, declared that persons who made sundry charges against her were "nothing but a pack of wicked wilful liars."

EXAMINATION.

The following are the questions set at the examination of the Central Midwives Board on May 1st :—

1. Describe the situation of the female bladder and urethra. What is meant by (*a*) "Retention of urine"? (*b*) "Incontinence of urine"? How would you ascertain the cause of incontinence in the early days of the puerperium?

2. Give an account of the inquiries and observations which you would make of a woman who engaged you to attend her in her confinement, in order to guard against possible dangers to herself and the fœtus.

3. Describe all that can be seen, felt, and heard on abdominal examination at the end of pregnancy.

4. Describe in detail the methods which you would adopt for the prevention of septic infection during labour.

5. Define the following :—Fœtus. Child. Still-birth. Antenatal death. Premature labour. Abortion. Miscarriage.

6. Describe exactly how you would examine the placenta and membranes. Why is this examination important?

CLEAN MILK.

The National Clean Milk Society, 2, Soho Square, W. 1, has issued a report on an investigation into the hygienic quality of milk supplied to mothers attending certain schools for mothers, which shows that a clean milk supply for London has not yet been attained. Milk as it leaves a healthy cow usually contains a negligible quantity of bacteria. The highest grade should not contain more than 10,000 bacteria per cubic centimetre, about a teaspoonful. None should be sold for infant feeding that does not come from herds free from tuberculosis or contains, at the time of its sale to the consumer, more than 100,000 bacteria per c.c. Out of twenty-eight samples obtained from dairymen supplying mothers attending certain schools for mothers the average sample contained about 3,500,000 bacteria per cubic centimetre, only four contained less than 500,000, whilst one sample contained as many as 104,300,000 per cubic centimetre.

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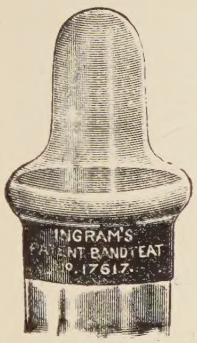

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Yours faithfully, ANNIE WILLIAMS.

"In all the cases in which I tried it, the women not only expressed themselves as much stronger, but looked much better and gained in weight at the rate of about four to five pounds a week."—DR. FELDMAN, *Lecturer in Midwifery and Hygiene for the London County Council.*

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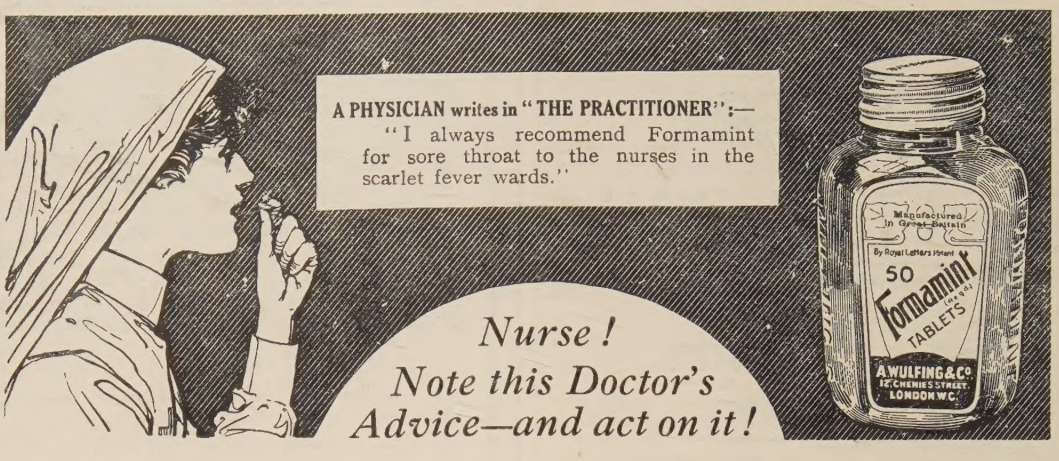

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BY the very nature of your profession you are constantly liable to catch infectious diseases, ranging from a mild sore throat to diphtheria, influenza, scarlet fever, measles, etc. All the more reason why you should adopt scientific measures to protect you from these risks.

Napoleon, it is true, said that a strong will was the best safeguard against infectious diseases; and no doubt you know from experience that there is a good deal of truth in this. Nevertheless, a strong will cannot always destroy the virulent microbes which escape from the patient's mouth into yours: only Formamint tablets can be depended on to do that—at least, they afford the quickest, simplest and surest means of doing it.

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